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REMARKS

In the Claims:

A. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 22 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-18 and 22 as anticipated in view of Nowak (U.S. Patent No. 4,046,163). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 1, 13 and 22 are independent claims from which the other claims depend.

Applicant respectfully disagrees that Nowak includes a "throughway (as clearly implied by arrows indicating fluid flow in figure three" (December 8, 2006 Office Action, p. 4). Independent claims 1 and 13 require an "adjustment member including a throughway." As taught in the Applicant's specification, the throughway allows for the passage of pressurized fluid. (Applicant's specification, paragraph [0013]). Nothing in Nowak, including Figure 3, discloses this limitation. In fact, Figure 3 of Nowak fails to imply or show that the "adjustment member," or washer 70 as indicated by the Examiner, includes a throughway. At most, Figure 3 implies that pressurized fluid is able to pass around the washer 70 and certainly does not show that the washer 70 includes a throughway – nor is this taught in the specification of Nowak.

Accordingly, since Nowak fails to disclose this limitation, Nowak cannot anticipate claims 1 and 13. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that these rejections be withdrawn. Claims 15-17 have been cancelled and therefore these rejections are moot. Because claims 2-5, 7 and 9-11 depend from claim 1 and claims 14 and 18-19 depend from claim 13, Applicant contends that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

However, with specific regard to claim 14, Applicant submits that this claim as amended is allowable for additional reasons. Applicant has amended claims 14 so that it includes the limitation that the cushion member "may be reversibly oriented so that when the flange contacts an outer wall of the tire rim the detent contacts an inner wall of the tire rim and so that when the flange contacts an inner wall of the tire rim the detent contacts an outer wall of the tire rim." Nowak does not include this limitation because the body 20 of Nowak cannot be reversibly oriented with respect to the wall 12. As such, the upper flange 28 of Nowak never contacts an

inner wall of the wall 12. (See Nowak, column 3, lines 43-57). Thus, claim 14 is allowable for this additional reason.

With respect to claim 22, Applicant has cancelled this claim, thereby mooting this rejection.

B. Rejection of Claims 8, 20 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

With respect to the rejection of claims 8, 20 and 21 under 103(a), Applicant contends that since these claims depend from independent claims 1 and 13 they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.

C. Objection to the Specification

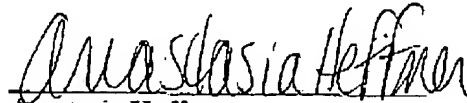
The Examiner continues to object to paragraph [0030]. As support for the objection, the Examiner refers to the last sentence of paragraph [0029], which states: As is discussed further below, the holes 105 allow excess pressure to exit from the chamber 120 when the pressure in a tire rises to the predetermined pressure. (December 8, 2006 Office Action, p. 3). Applicant has amended paragraphs [0029] and [0033] to clear up any confusion and has deleted the last sentence of paragraph [0029], which admitted refers the "reversible nature" of the valve, and essentially has moved it into paragraph [0033], which describes in greater detail the reversible nature of the valve. With respect to paragraph [0030], and to address the Examiner's objections, the "cap" is indeed cap 130, which is exposed to the atmosphere. As described in paragraph [0030], fluid enters into chamber 120 through holes 105. When the pressure increases past a predetermined pressure, the force exerted by the pressure against the sealing member 122 and pin 124 will exceed the load of spring 126, causing the spring to compress so that the chamber 120 and pathway 112 are in fluid communication so that the excess pressure may exit out the pathway 112. Contrary to the Examiner's reasoning, the spring side of the valve will not be exposed to the fluid pressure within the tire, as the pin 124 prevents fluid communication between the chamber 120 and the area surrounding the spring when the valve is in an unactuated state (see Figure 3).

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 1-14 and 18-21 as amended are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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